# "THE VAGABOND KING"

"I am a singer of songs. Had I be born in a brocaded bed, I might have led armies and told kings the truth without dread of the gallows. I might have changed the world and left a memory."

# DENNIS KING

*as*

Francois Villon

*"The Vagabond King"*

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ADOLPH ZUKOR and JESSE L. LASKY

*present*

# DENNIS KING

*(by arrangement with Florenz Ziegfeld)*

*in*

# "THE VAGABOND KING"

*with*

## JEANETTE MacDONALD

Warner Oland, O. P. Heggie, Lillian Roth
and a cast of 2,000

A LUDWIG BERGER Production

From "If I Were King" by Justin Huntly McCarthy and the famous operetta, "The Vagabond King", by William H. Post, Brian Hooker and Rudolph Friml

*Screen adaptation and added dialog by*
HERMAN J. MANKIEWICZ

*Photographed by the* Technicolor Process

**A Paramount Picture**

B. P. SCHULBERG, *General Manager, West Coast Productions.*

JEANETTE MacDONALD

*as*

Katherine

"If all my dreams of loveliness had been pieced together into one perfect woman, she would have been like you. The sound of your beauty is in my ears, the breath of it upon my lips and the pain of it is in my heart".

# THE PLAYERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Francois Villon | *Dennis King* |
| Katherine | *Jeanette MacDonald* |
| King Louis XI | *O. P. Heggie* |
| Huguette | *Lillian Roth* |
| Thibault | *Warner Oland* |
| The Barber | *Arthur Stone* |
| The Astrologer | *Thomas Ricketts* |
| The Major Domo | *Lawford Davidson* |

*Ladies, courtiers, soldiers, vagabonds,*
*street girls, singers, dancers, thieves*

◆

# THE PLAY

The poetry of Francois Villon, written in the fifteenth century, lives today for connoisseurs of literature. Villon, the man, lives today for the millions through the medium of the screen.

Taking romantic liberties with the real facts of Villon's stormy career, Justin Huntly McCarthy portrayed him as cavalier, lover, swordsman and king of the Parisian vagabonds in his famous novel, "If I Were King". Later the book, extremely successful, was written in stage play form and furnished a vehicle for E. H. Sothern and other famous stars.

The musical stage next adopted the romanticized Villon, the novel and play being fashioned into a stirring song romance with the title, "The Vagabond King". In it a handsome young singer, Dennis King, soared to fame.

Now Paramount combines the spectacular sweep of the novel and the romantic fervor and melodies of the stage version in a talking, singing, all-color picturization of "The Vagabond King", offering Dennis King again in the title role.

(*Continued on Page 6*)

LILLIAN ROTH
*as Huguette*

# THE PLAY

(*Continued from Page 5*)

Jeanette MacDonald, the Queen in "The Love Parade", is seen as Katherine, niece of King Louis XI and Villon's inamorata. It is an historical fact that Villon, poet, had a love affair with Katherine de Vaucelles, though it is doubtful if she was a relative of royalty.

Warner Oland is cast as Thibault, the traitorous Grand Marshal of France. O. P. Heggie, distinguished stage and screen character actor, portrays King Louis XI and gives an historically perfect interpretation of the shrewd, parsimonious and dryly humorous monarch.

Lillian Roth, hitherto a singing comedienne, is amazingly successful in her first dramatic role, that of Huguette, the street girl. Arthur Stone gives a humorous twist to the character of the King's barber, in history the famous Oliver of Ghent.

O. P. HEGGIE
*as King Louis XI*

WARNER OLAND
*as Thibault*

# THE STORY

THE story is laid in the Paris of 1460 -- the Paris of a profligate Court and a starving common people, of palatial royal palaces and the dirty hovels of the poor in narrow, crooked streets, of an upper-world of weak, corrupt nobles and an underworld of bold vagabonds who must steal or starve.

Outside of the gates is encamped the hostile army of the rebellious Duke of Burgundy, planning to fling himself upon the city. With his subjects discontented, his army rife with treason and himself a miserly, vacillating old man who prefers to consult the stars rather than plan a defence, King Louis XI of France seems doomed to an overwhelming defeat.

In a dark and dingy cellar tavern in the rougher quarter of Paris, Francois Villon, poet, lover, thief and the finest swordsman of France, king of the vagabonds, is entertaining his ragged followers of both sexes by singing ribald, insulting songs about the hated King Louis. His arm is around pretty, dark-eyed Huguette, a girl of the streets and Villon's current flame. A remarkable man, Francois. He has within him the manners, the courage and the brains to attain great heights. But thus far he has been content to be the leader of the pack of human wolves with which he consorts.

Villon's songs are interrupted by a shrill warning cry. "The City Guards!" There's a price upon Villon's head and he is being eternally hounded. With a laugh he kisses Huguette good bye, plunges the tavern into darkness and escapes as the Guards swarm down the stone steps with torches. Questioned as to Villon, Huguette chuckles scornfully and says, "Find him for yourselves!"

Villon, pursued, decides to take refuge in the Cathedral of Notre Dame. He is attracted to the beautiful Katherine de Vaucelles, niece of the King, whom he sees at her devotions. When she leaves he tries to speak to her, but, mistaking him for a beggar, she merely gives him a coin, and passes on. As she walks along through the dark street she is attacked by three ruffians. Hearing her cries for help, Villon dashes to the rescue and puts the ruffians to flight. He then offers to escort Katherine home, but she, distressed by his ragged appearance, refuses. Villon, nothing daunted, follows at a respectful distance.

At the gates of her Palace home, Katherine is about to walk straight in, when Villon pleads again for one kind word. Given this he promises to pledge himself to Katherine's service. Katherine is intensely patriotic, and, knowing that the Burgundian troops, are at the city gates, wishes aloud for a man who is brave enough to rout them. Villon asks what would be the reward for such a man. Katherine replies that she would bestow on him her heart and all her love.

With this she enters the castle and as Villon gazes after her, he hears her singing "Some Day". Approaching closer until he can see into Katherine's room, Villon stands for a moment in rapt adoration. Then leaning against the wall he pours out his love in song.

Next day in the Royal Observatory on the roof of the King's Palace, the King and Katherine are discussing the situation of the besieging Burgundians with the Royal Astrologer. The latter tells them that a man will arise from the gutter to rescue Paris, and goes on to say that there is treason at the right hand of the King. Louis sends for Thibault, his Grand Marshal.

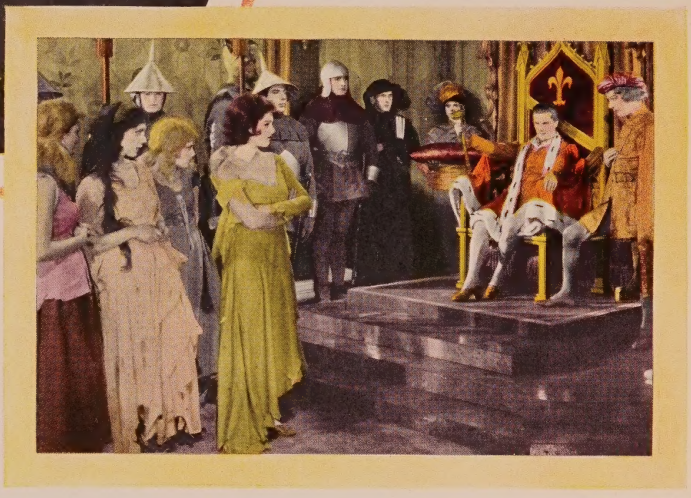
When summoned, the latter is conferring with the three ruffians whom we saw attacking Katherine, and we realize that they are in his pay. Thibault swears vengeance against Villon for his interference, and it is made clear that he is trying to betray Paris to the enemy by delivering Katherine to the Duke of Burgundy as a hostage.

The King, incognito, and accompanied by Tristan, his major domo, goes to the tavern frequented by the vagabonds that night to find the "man from the gutter" named by the Astrologer. He meets Villon, and the poet, not knowing to whom he is talking, tells the King a few home truths. He then calls on the vagabonds to rise and save Paris. During this scene he sings "The Song of the Vagabonds". Thibault enters and engages in a duel with Villon,

*Continued on page 8*

which of course is watched by the King. Thibault falls, apparently dead. As the City Guards enter, the King reveals himself and orders the arrest of Villon and his companions.

The King now believes Villon may be the man meant by the Astrologer and decides on an experiment. Aided by Olivier, his barber, and a drug administered to Villon, he causes Francois to be shaved of his beard, dressed in silk and satin and laid in a great bed in the Palace. When Villon awakes, he finds himself the Grand Marshal of France, by Royal command.



His first act is to try the cases of his late companions, including Huguette, who of course does not recognize him. Needless to say, he acquits them all. Huguette begs the new Grand Marshal for news of Villon. Curiously, he asks why she is so anxious about him. Huguette replies that she loves him. She goes on to say that Villon was not to blame for Thibault's death as the latter was the aggressor. This is heard by Katherine who is conceald in a balcony. She is greatly interested to hear that Villon, the man who saved her life, has also killed her enemy, Thibault.

After the trial of the vagabonds the King has a scene with Villon. He asks him whether he still thinks that he could be a better king than the King himself. Villon replies that he does think so. Louis then offers him a choice of two alternatives. He may go back to the gutter at once, unharmed and free; or he may be King for seven days and on the seventh day be hanged. Villon hesitates, and while he does so, a page approaches asking that he grant an audience to Katherine. Villon suddenly makes up his mind. He will take the seven days of glory and the death at the hangman's hand.

In the scene with Katherine which follows, she begs the Grand Marshal Villon for the life of the vagabond Villon who has rescued her. She little knows that the two are one and the same person. Villon grants her request and declares his love for her. She says that to win her favor he must save Paris. As a token she gives him a rose, and they sing the duet, "Only a Rose".

The Burgundian heralds arrive to demand the surrender of the city. Villon laughs at them and tells them that he is going to give a fete with music and dancing that night to show his lack of fear of them. He defies Burgundy in a fiery speech. Katherine hears his brave words and kneels to him as the saviour of the city.

The vagabonds, meantime, led on by Huguette, are planning to rescue their leader, Villon. While they are planning, a monk tells them that he knows where Villon is imprisoned. This monk is Thibault in disguise. He has escaped death in duel and is planning to betray the city to the Burgundians. The vagabonds enter a conspiracy with the supposed monk to free Villon, unaware of Thibault's real intentions.

Before the fete, Katherine and Villon have a scene in the beautiful garden of the Palace in which Katherine confesses her love for Villon and in which they sing the love duet, "Love Me Tonight". Villon tells Katherine that he is going to attack the Burgundians that night, hoping that they will be off their guard, since they know a fete is in progress.

While the fete is at its luxurious height, the vagabonds and Huguette gain entrance to the Palace accompanied by Thibault still disguised as a monk. He has caused word to be sent to the King that he is a new and miraculous astrologer. By this means he hopes to come close enough to Louis to murder him and, after him, Villon.

The fete is in full swing. There is dancing and drinking and the whole function is invested with the luxurious extravagance which characterized the Court of that period. Katherine sees Villon reveling with the rest. Thinking that he has forgotten that he has promised to deliver Paris that night, she reproaches him bitterly.

(Continued on page 12)

(Left) King Louis inducts Villon into his new duties as Grand Marshal of France

(Below) The parting of Villon from Huguette, his girl of the streets

# Scenes from the Photoplay

(Right) Villon, drugged, is carried into the Royal Palace

(Above) Villon and Katherine pledge their undying love on the gallows

(Right) One of the amusing dwarf attendants at the Royal Palace

(Below) "And you, my pretty wench, what might your profession be?"

# THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF "T

ONE of the most impressive and spectacular scenes ever seen and heard upon the screen is the triumphant return from their hard-won victory over the Burgundian army of the courageous mob of Parisian vagabonds with their amazing "King", Francois Villon, at their head.

While the "lousy rabble of low degree", with Villon flashing and slashing the way for them, battles to save France outside of the gates of the city, the King, his nobles and their ladies in gorgeous attire gather inside the great Cathedral of Notre Dame to pray for victory. A victory which in their hearts they do not believe is possible.

The scene is brilliant in color, electric in its suspense and inspiring in its beauty and solemnity.

*(Upper left) The flaming love scenes between handsome Dennis King and lovely Jeanette MacDonald are unforgettable.*

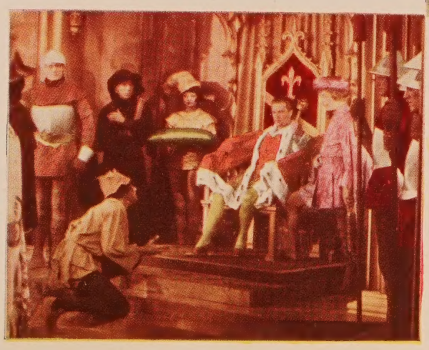
*(Left) "What can honest men do but drink when a worthless nincompoop sits upon the throne?"*

# E VAGABOND KING" FROM BATTLE

AMONG the royal suppliants who kneel is beautiful Katherine de Vaucelles, niece of King Louis XI. She prays not only for France but for the life of the man she loves -- Francois Villon.

Suddenly amid the chants of the priests, the responses and welling of the mighty organ sounds the distant martial strains of the "Song of the Vagabonds". The congregation in the cathedral raises fearful, hopeful heads. The famous marching song of the vagabonds comes more loudly to their ears, flung from two thousand exultant throats. The King and his followers spring to their feet as the great doors of the Cathedral swing open to admit the victorious horde. Villon hurls the banners of vanquished Burgundy at the King's feet, cries, "Rugs for your Palace floors!" and announces himself ready for the gallows!

*(Upper right) The fierce hand to hand conflicts between the Burgundian hosts and the French vagabonds live vividly in color.*



*(Right) Villon, masquerading as the Grand Marshal of France, sits in judgement on his former vagabond companions.*

# THE STORY

(*Continued from page 8*)

Villon now hears from one of his spies of the plan to murder the King. This report is confirmed by his seeing Huguette. From her he learns that Thibault, disguised as the new Astrologer, is even now waiting to see the King in the Astrologer's Tower. Villon hastens there by another route and persuades the King to change clothes with him. He then steps out to where Thibault is waiting.

Thibault, thinking him to be the King, attempts to stab him. This is frustrated, and Thibault and his companions are arrested. Thibault makes a last attempt to stab Villon. Huguette who is nearby interposes her own body and is mortally wounded. Villon immediately kills Thibault, but nevertheless cannot save Huguette, who dies in his arms, avowing her love for him with her dying breath.

Villon now gives the orders for the attack on the Burgundians. He announces that he himself will ride at the head of the Vagabonds as the Vagabond King, rather than at the head of troops as the Grand Marshal. Katherine hears all this and, believing that it has all been pretense and sham, bursts into tears.

Now follow magnificent scenes as the beggars and vagabonds swarm out of their rat holes to rally to their leader. As they come, the "Song of the Vagabonds" is heard swelling louder and louder.

Led by Villon, they surge out of the gates and engage the enemy in battle. After a fierce battle they are victorous and return laden with spoils. As they approach the gates, we see Katherine and the King at prayer in the packed Cathedral of Notre Dame. Gradually the organ music is drowned out by the victorious song of the returning vagabonds.

The King and Katherine receive the victorious Villon on the steps of the Cathedral. The King, alarmed for his throne because of the devotion shown Villon, reminds the poet of his bargain. It is the seventh day. It is the day of his death. Villon turns to the crowd and as Grand Marshal sentences himself to the gallows. The mob grows ugly and the King announces that if one can be found to offer himself to die as a substitute for Villon the latter may live. No one comes foward, and the King gives the order "To the gallows".

At the gallows the King again makes this offer of freedom for Villon if a substitute can be found. There is a pause and then Katherine steps bravely forward to offer herself. She has forgotten her anger with Villon and confesses that she loves him.

The two have a short scene of farewell. During this the King is in an agony of indecision. If he spares Villon he feels he will lose his throne. If he kills him he realizes from the temper of the crowd that he will probably lose his kingdom. As the two lovers tear away from their last embrace, Louis makes his decision. Turning to the crowd he announces that Villon is free. Then to Villon he says, "But you can no longer be the King of France".

To this Villon replies, "What do we want with a crown?" Taking Katherine in his arms, he sings with her "Only a Rose" as the sun of a new day gloriously rises.

*King Louis:* "Where did you learn to be a soldier?"

*Villon:* "In the School of Hope Diferred! It taught me to laugh when my heart was breaking, to fight on when the world went black!"

(*Below, right*) *Villon to the Herald of Burgundy:* "We laugh at your traitorous master. But when we who eat are hungry, when we who drink are dry, when we who glow are frozen—then our answer to rebellious Burgundy will be the drawn sword!"

(*Right*) *King Louis to Villon:* "This time your star has played you false, Villon. For, mark you—tomorrow you hang! I gave you your choice. You were free to return, unharmed, to the miserable sewers from which you came—or to live for one glorious week as if you were King—and then hang. You made your own choice!"

*Villon:* "I would make it again. I shall meet the gallows with dawn".

*Louis:* "And when you swing—I shall forget your insults".

*Villon:* "Aye, Sire—and remember my name!"

(*Above*) *Villon to Katherine:* "There comes between me and heaven the face of a lady, the most beautiful I ever saw. And though you see me no more than the stones I stand upon, I see you once and forevermore".

(*Left*) *Huguette, dying:* "Many men have loved me. Only one ever took my heart. Just one. Kiss me Francois".

# A New Romantic Star Comes to the Screen

THE man who has been called the greatest romantic singing star of the American stage has scored a fresh triumph! With the release of "The "Vagabond King" it is certain that Dennis King, its glamorous star, will be welcomed to the very front rank of motion picture luminaries.

There is romance about the very appearance of King that wins one instantly. When his golden voice rings out to the strains of the melodies which he has made famous, the conquest is complete.

Dennis King has blue eyes and light brown hair. He has a lithe, athletic figure which shows the effect of his constant fencing, swimming and tennis. He is about five feet ten inches tall but seems taller due to his very erect carriage. He weighs 155 pounds

King was born in Coventry, England, the town in which Lady Godiva made her famous ride garbed only in her own tresses. When he was fourteen years old, being even then of a romantic turn of mind and enamoured of the stage, he ran away from home to take a job as call boy in Birmingham in the repertory theatre of John Drinkwater, the well known poet and playwright.

At the outbreak of the World War, King was sixteen years old. He lied about his age to the recruiting sergeant and enlisted in the army as a private. He served throughout the conflict and was wounded once. Discharged from service, he again sought a career upon the stage and was successful in securing a number of engagements in London. In 1920 he came to America to appear in a production of "Monsieur Beaucaire", based upon Booth Tarkington's celebrated romance. Following that, he appeared in a number of other American productions, including Jane Cowl's "Romeo and Juliet", in which he had the role of "Mercutio". Other successes were "Happy Go Lucky", "Anthony and Cleopatra", "Back to Methuselah" and "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife".

DENNIS KING
*as*
*"The Vagabond King"*

In all of these plays King had dramatic speaking roles; his glorious singing voice had not yet been discovered, even by himself. He finally yielded to the suggestions of many friends for whom he had sung informally and went to a singing teacher. Among those who insisted to him that his voice had tremendous possibilities was O. P. Heggie, with whom King appeared in "Happy Go Lucky" and who plays the role of King Louis XI in "The Vagabond King".

It was soon demonstrated that King had an exceptional singing voice, a baritone with the lyric quality of a tenor. He was at once in demand as a singing star. Arthur Hammerstein sent for him and King played in the former's very successful production of "Rose Marie".

Then came Dennis King's first genuine triumph in a musical romance. He was chosen for the title role in the stage musical presentation of "The Vagabond King". He was given an ovation by the audience the first night and continued to be enthusiastically received for eighty six consecutive weeks. A sensation on Broadway, the operetta repeated its triumph in Chicago and Philadelphia.

From this singing and dramatic success, King went to the starring role of D'Artagnan in Ziegfeld's elaborate musical version of "The Three Musketeers". This also enjoyed a merited triumph and an extended run.

When Paramount purchased the motion picture rights to "The Vagabond King" and made plans to produce the talking, singing, all-color screen version of the play upon an unprecedently lavish scale, the first thought was to secure Dennis King to act and sing the title role upon the silver sheet. It seemed that no production of "The Vagabond King" could be genuine without him. The idea was favorable to him and he went to Hollywood upon the completion of the run of "The Three Musketeers".

# Seen and Heard in Her Second Royal Role

WITH the appearance of Jeanette MacDonald in the extremely successful Chevalier-Lubitsch song romance, "The Love Parade", Paramount's search for the woman to play the role of Katherine opposite Dennis King in "The Vagabond King" was ended.

Miss MacDonald, public and critics agreed, was an exquisitely beautiful woman and an excellent actress. She possessed a soprano voice of charming quality which reproduced perfectly on the screen. She could not only portray a royal heroine but she could also display the warmth of a lady in love. She was Katherine of "The Vagabond King" to the life, just as she was also Queen Louise of "The Love Parade".

One has only to listen to the marvelous manner in which Miss MacDonald's soprano blends with Dennis King's baritone in the duet, "Only a Rose", to acknowledge that Paramount chose wisely.

Miss MacDonald, a Philadelphia girl of Scottish descent, made her stage debut in the chorus of a Ned Wayburn revue. She understudied the prima donna in "The Night Boat", a successful Broadway musical comedy in which Jack Oakie and Ernest Torrence were comedians. In successive seasons she was featured or starred in "The Magic Ring" with Mitzi, "Tip Toes", "Irene", "Tangerine", "Sunny Days", "Bubbling Over", "Yes, Yes, Yvette", "Angela" and "Boom Boom".

She has red-gold hair and sea-green eyes. Though famous for her singing voice, she takes a private singing instructress with her wherever she goes, to check upon the quality of her work. Her favorite food is milk. Her ambition is to play gamin roles.

This ambition will be at least partially realized in Miss MacDonald's next picture, tentatively called "Let's Go Native", in which she will be seen as a lively young ultra-modern American girl lost with a yacht's company of fellow playboys and playgirls on a desert island. The picture is a musical comedy written by George Marion, Jr., who authored the famous "Sweetie", and is being directed by the "Sweetie" megaphoner, Frank Tuttle.

Jack Oakie, James Hall, Skeets Gallagher and William Austin are included in the cast.

## SIDELIGHTS ON "THE VAGABOND KING"

Whenever the musical stage and its composers are mentioned, the name of Rudolf Friml always figures prominently. From the pre-war days of 1912 and his beautiful score for "The Firefly", Friml has held a place in the front rank of American composers. "Katinka", "Sometime" and "The Three Musketeers" are some of the successes for which he has written the music. It is certain that among his compositions none has been more popular than his famous "Song of the Vagabonds", "Only a Rose" and the other lovely melodies of "The Vagabond King".

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Arthur Stone, a well known Hollywood comedian, plays the role of the King's Barber in "The Vagabond King". Though portrayed here as a comedy character, the barber of Louis XI was actually the famous Oliver of Ghent, a sinister and mysterious figure who was called "the Devil" by the people of France and "the King's brains" by the Court.

Thomas Ricketts, seen in "The Vagabond King" as the King's Astrologer, is one of the real veterans of filmdom, having started almost twenty years ago as a director—and on Staten Island of all places. He is one of the original discoverers of Hollywood as a picture production center, bringing a company of forty six people to make a picture there when it was a small country town.

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Lawford Davidson, Tristan in the picture, is a recruit from the English picture studios. His excellent voice won him a job in Hollywood and he has been in great demand since the inception of the talkies. Lately he appeared in "The Studio Murder Mystery" and "Dr. Fu Manchu".

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Herman J. Mankiewicz, who adapted "The Vagabond King" to the screen, was once dramatic critic of the New York Times, wrote a play with George S. Kaufman and is the author of a score of dialog scripts and adaptations.

# TALENTED TRIO

## LILLIAN ROTH

At the age of eighteen Lillian Roth is playing her first dramatic role and in a major motion picture production, "The Vagabond King".

When Miss Roth, Boston born, New York bred, was five years old, she was appearing before the motion picture camera at a studio in Fort Lee, New Jersey. A few years later saw her on the vaudeville stage.

Then she was singing in a small part in the Shubert production of "Artists and Models". From this start she rapidly became known as one of the cleverest blues singers on Broadway. She was featured in the Ziegfeld Follies, Earl Carroll's Vanities and Delmar's Revels.

Jesse L. Lasky, hearing her on the same bill with Maurice Chevalier at the Ziegfeld Midnight Frolic, engaged her to make singing shorts at Paramount's Long Island studio. So successful were they that she signed to play Lulu, the gamin maid in "The Love Parade". Then came "The Vagabond King" and Huguette.

Miss Roth also has a prominent role in the screen musical comedy, "Honey", sister show to "Sweetie".

## O. P. HEGGIE

O. P. Heggie brings years of dramatic experience, during the course of which he became prominent as one of the stage's greatest character stars, and a wealth of conscientious research to his role of King Louis XI in "The Vagabond King".

Born in Australia, Heggie began his theatrical career in London in 1900 with William Hawtrey's production of "A Message from Mars". Since that time he has played every type of role from juvenile to characters.

Heggie made one motion picture in London along with his stage work but it was not until an American company filmed "Trelawney" under the name of "The Actress" that he began to take screen acting seriously. With the advent of the talkies his magnificent voice was coveted by the picture producers. Paramount secured him for a prominent role in "The Letter", starring Jeanne Eagels.

He created the role of the Scotland Yard detective in Paramount's production of "The Mysterious Dr. Fu Manchu" and is soon to enact the same exciting part in its sequel, "The Return of Dr. Fu Manchu".

## WARNER OLAND

So many Oriental villains has Warner Oland, seen as Thibault in "The Vagabond King", played upon the screen that it probably comes as a shock to many to learn that he was born in Sweden. It is a further surprise to know that he started his professional career as a grand opera singer in his native land. Coming to America he became known as the translator of twenty of Strindberg's plays. Then he traveled for several years in Shakespearean repertoire with Sothern and Marlowe and Viola Allen. His last stage appearance was in "The Yellow Ticket".

He made his debut on the screen in a picture starring Theda Bara. There followed a long succession of films in which Oland played in support of practically every well known star of the screen. His latest releases are "The Mysterious Dr. Fu Manchu", "The Mighty", "Dangerous Paradise" and "The Studio Murder Mystery". He is soon to be seen and heard in "The Return of Dr. Fu Manchu", in which he will again have the title role ot the insidious Oriental.

*The street girl*

*The noble lady*

## DO YOU KNOW

That Jesse L. Lasky predicts the time will soon come when color will be as essential to a motion picture as sound is today. "There is no evading color", says Mr. Lasky. "Every sign points to it."

*"I love you, Katherine"*

## FURTHERMORE

That the setting of the Palace rose garden in which Dennis King and Jeanette MacDonald sing "Only a Rose" measured 250 feet long by 75 feet wide and it was necessary to curtain off sections for the close-ups and medium shots.

That the scores of applicants for the roles of Dennis King's vagabond girl friends were given an outline of the story and the line "I am an honorable washerwoman" to say. The three who won put the emphasis rightly on the word "honorable".

That Jeanette MacDonald takes a singing instructor with her as part of her entourage and carefully has her voice tested for quality at frequent intervals, in spite of years of experience.

*March to the Gallows*

That 32,000 amperes of electricity were necessary to light the scene where the Palace fete takes place in the picture. One hundred and thirteen electricians played nursemaids to 390 lights. Three hundred people take part in the scene.

That Dennis King will nonchalantly smash mirrors and walk under ladders but he always makes sure of putting his left foot forward when donning a costume.

That 15,000 yards of textiles are annually used by the costume department of Paramount's Hollywood studios and the costumes for "The Vagabond King" vastly increased this amount.

That "The Vagabond King" on the screen has fifty-five different settings in full color. The stage production had three.

*Plot to save Villon*

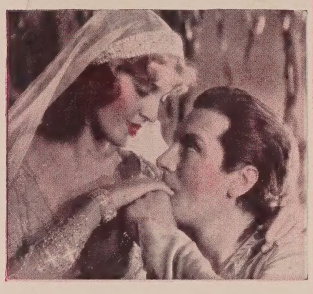
That the three fat giants in the breakfast scene in the picture weigh a total of 1300 pounds and the three dwarfs in the same scene are each under four feet tall.

That over 500 leading motion picture theatres throughout the United States are voluntarily raising their admission prices when showing "The Vagabond King", believing that the unusual quality of the production warrants it.

# The Famous Musical Gems

## "SONG OF THE VAGABONDS"

This stirring martial air echoes the romantic spirit of "The Vagabond King". It is sung first in the picture by Dennis King and his vagabond followers in the tavern which is their haunt. It is sung again as King leads the ragged horde into battle and again when they return victorious from their conflict with the Burgundians.



## "LOVE ME TONIGHT"

The throbbing love melody is sung as a duet by Dennis King and Jeanette MacDonald as they plight their troth just before the battle and on the eve before the fateful day when King is to lose his life on the gallows. It is one of Rudolf Friml's loveliest compositions. The voices of King and Miss MacDonald blend perfectly.

## "VAGABOND KING WALTZ"

Also known as the "Valse Huguette" and "Love Me and Let Me Go". Sung in the tavern of the vagabonds by Lillian Roth in the character of Huguette, the girl of the streets, as she repulses the advances of her amorous male companions and longs for the arms of her true love, Francois Villon, played by Dennis King.

## "SOME DAY"

This is the love song which introduces the charming voice of Jeanette MacDonald to the picture. She sings it in her boudoir in the Palace of King Louis XI. Outside lingers the vagabond king, Villon (Dennis King), longing for a glimpse of her and his sudden love for her accentuated by the words of the plaintive song.

## "ONLY A ROSE"

This melody, one of the most beautiful ever heard on stage or screen, is sung as a duet by Dennis King and Jeanette MacDonald. The setting is the gorgeous rose garden in the Palace grounds. The rose is the pledge of love which Katherine (Miss MacDonald) gives to Villon (Dennis King) provided he saves France.

All of this music is published by the Famous Music Corporation, 745 Seventh Avenue, New York City and is available in sheet music form. Also a wide selection of phonograph recordings.

# The Man Who Directed "The Vagabond King"

◆

AS director of "The Vagabond King" Paramount was fortunate in securing a man who is not only an excellent motion picture craftsman but an accomplished musician besides.

Ludwig Berger was born in Mainz, Germany, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Franz Bamberger. When he was five years old, Berger displayed unusual ability as a violin-cello virtuoso. Joseph Joachim celebrated German violinist, often coached the boy at his home in Mainz. Berger's mother was an accomplished violinist, and herself taught the boy to master that instrument. Berger is also an excellent organist.

The boy was educated in Mainz and then entered the University of Munich where he specialized in history and art. After graduation from Munich he studied at Heidelberg university where he received his doctor of philosophy degree.

Before receiving a degree of doctor of philosophy, Berger wrote an essay on the history of art; he adapted Shakespeare's legendary play, "Cymbeline", for the modern theatre; wrote the popular fairy-tales, "Griseldes" and "Genoveva", and the modern plays, "Maria and Martha" and "Der Goldene Schnitt". A philosophical book, "Copernicus", is also listed in his accomplishments as a student.

When he was 21 years old, Berger staged his first Mozart Opera in Mainz. One of his notable accomplishments at this period was also the production of an opera single-handed. He accompanied himself on the grand-piano and sang most of the roles himself. Besides that he drew up the production set sketches and instructed the dances.

Berger made his entry into the theatrical business at the Stadts theatre in Hamburg where his adaptation of Shakespeare's "Cymbeline" was produced. Later he produced plays at the Schauspiel Theatre, the Berliner Volksbuehne, the Reinhardt Theatre, and the Stadts Theatre; all in Berlin.

With more than 50 stage productions to his credit Berger turned to motion pictures. It was "The Waltz Dream" which led to offers for Berger to come to America and direct.

*Dr. Ludwig Berger*

The call from overseas became so insistent that Berger heeded and late in 1927 he came to Hollywood. His first directorial assignment was with Paramount in the Pola Negri starring vehicle, "The Woman From Moscow". His success with that production led Paramount executives to assign him to the Emil Jannings picture, "Sins of the Fathers".

Dr. Berger, with his background of artistic motion picture production and knowledge of music, was inevitably the choice to direct "The Vagabond King". And it is certain that a large part of the credit for the tremendous success of "The Vagabond King" belongs to Dr. Berger.

Watch For.....

"PARAMOUNT ON PARADE"

*The Screen's Greatest Musical Comedy Triumph!*

If you enjoy "The Vagabond King" it is certain that you will be delighted with Paramount's coming production of "Paramount on Parade". We promise you something greater than and utterly different from any screen musical comedy which you have ever witnessed before.

The cast includes practically every big star enrolled under the Paramount banner. That means the very cream of screen luminaries. A group of distinguished directors are producing the picture. Never have so much talent and brains been lavished upon a single production. The result is not a formless revue but a brilliant, intimate musical comedy abounding in fun, color, melody and everything else making for superb entertainment.

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*A Paramount Picture*


Printed By The Gordon Press, Inc., N. Y.

# CRITERION THEATRE

Broadway at Forty Fourth Street, New York City

## SPECIAL PROGRAM

for World Premiere

Wednesday Evening, February 19th, 1930

*of*

# DENNIS KING

*in*

# "THE VAGABOND KING"

*with*

JEANETTE MacDONALD

Warner Oland, O. P. Heggie and Lillian Roth

A Ludwig Berger *Production*

Photographed by the Technicolor Process

***A Paramount Picture***

## THE PLAYERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Francois Villon | *Dennis King* |
| Katherine | *Jeanette MacDonald* |
| King Louis XI | *O. P. Heggie* |
| Huguette | *Lillian Roth* |
| Thibault | *Warner Oland* |
| The Barber | *Arthur Stone* |
| The Astrologer | *Thomas Ricketts* |
| The Major Domo | *Lawford Davidson* |